

18. (Amended) A golf ball comprising a core and a cover disposed about the core, wherein the core comprises a solid center and an outer core layer adjacent the center, and the cover comprises an inner cover layer and an outer cover layer;

(a) wherein the center has an outer diameter from about 0.375 in to about 1.4 in and deflection of greater than about 4.5 mm under a load of 100 Kg;

(b) the outer core layer has an outer diameter of from about 1.4 in to about 1.62 in;

(c) the inner cover layer has an outer diameter of greater than about 1.58 in and a material hardness of less than about 72 Shore D; and

(d) the outer cover layer has a hardness of greater than about 56 Shore D.

~~Please cancel claim 17 without prejudice.~~

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-28 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended. Claim 17 has been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants' right to file one or more continuing applications directed to any subject matter not presently claimed. No new matter has been added by these amendments, support for which can be found in the Specification in Table II on page 33.

A bracketed and underlined copy of the amended claims, clearly showing any deleted or added text, is enclosed herein for the Examiner's convenience as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c).

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as being non-enabling. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that a hollow core cannot have a deflection because it is not possible to measure the deflection of a void space. Claim 17 is hereby cancelled without prejudice. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is therefore believed to have been overcome. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Rejections Over U.S. Patent No. 6,248,027 to Hayashi et al.

Claims 1-16 and 18-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,248,027 to Hayashi et al. ("Hayashi"). Hayashi is generally directed to a multi-piece solid golf ball of a structure having at least four layers, including an inner core, an outer core, an